City of Pleasant Hill

CITY AT WORK

Spring 2006

This City at Work issue highlights the Public Works and Community Development Department public works activities within the City. The Public Works section is composed of two divisions: Engineering and Maintenance. The Engineering Division handles the construction inspection and contract administration for Capital Improvement Projects such as traffic signals, sidewalks, street paving, and storm drains. This Division also addresses traffic issues, encroachment permits in the public property, flood plan issues, and new subdivision development including plan checking and inspections. The Maintenance Division performs routine maintenance of City landscaping, temporary pothole repair, storm drain cleaning, street sweeping, and maintenance of City buildings (City Hall, Public Service Center and Police Department Buildings).

Engineering Division

City Hall
100 Gregory Lane
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523
Phone (925) 671-5265
Fax (925) 676-1125
www.pleasant-hill.ca.us/PublicWorks

Maintenance Division

Public Services Center
310 Civic Drive
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523
Phone (925) 671-4646
Fax (925) 676-7628

Engineering Staff Directory (area code 925)

Steve Wallace, Public Works and Community Development Director	671-5208
Mario Moreno, City Engineer	671-5252
Annette Kaufmann, Administration Secretary	671-5264
Steve Kersevan, Senior Traffic Engineer	671-5203
Bill Lightfoot, Assistant Engineer	671-5260
Shawn Knapp, Assistant Engineer	671-5251
Safa Jubboori, Construction Inspector	671-5232

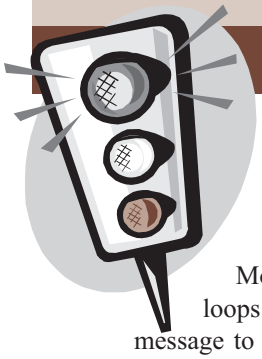
Maintenance Staff Directory (area code 925)

Steve Wallace, Director, PW & CD Director	671-5208
Jackie Winterbauer, Administrative Secretary	671-4646
Mike Moore, Senior Maintenance Worker	671-5244

To email comments and concerns pertaining to public works operations, please go to the City of Pleasant Hill web site (www.pleasanthill.ca.gov) and then use the CONTACT US pulldown menu to access STAFF E-MAIL (COMCATE).

Important Public Works Operations Numbers (area code 925)

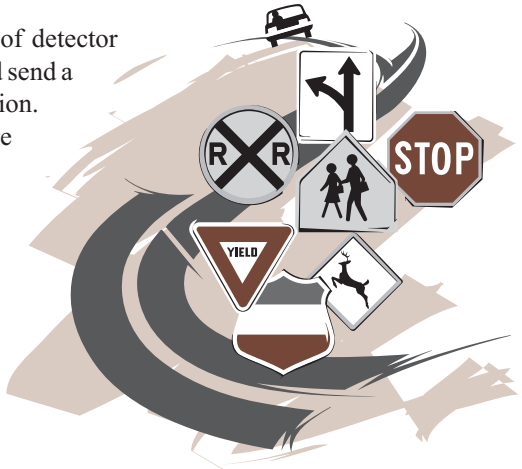
Street Maintenance & Sweeping (potholes, storm drains, sweeping and city landscaping)	671-4646
Traffic Issues (parking, signs, signals, striping and traffic calming)	671-5203
Capital Improvement Projects (pavement and storm system rehab)	671-5251
Street Pavement Program (pavement analysis and scheduling)	671-5251
Subdivision Development (grading, plan checking and inspections)	671-5260
Encroachment Permits (sidewalk, driveway, fences and utility repair)	671-5232



TRAFFIC MATTERS

The City receives numerous traffic related phone calls every week. Residents can learn more about City traffic policies by calling Steve Kersevan, Senior Traffic Engineer at 671-5203 or by visiting the City website (http://www.pleasanthill.ca.gov/PublicWorks/traffic.cfm). This issue of the Outlook newsletter addresses the question "Why I am waiting at a red light when there is no cross traffic?"

Modern traffic signals sense the presence of vehicles through the use of detector loops buried within the pavement. The loops detect the presence of metal and send a message to the traffic signal controller that a vehicle is waiting at the intersection. Typical intersections have numerous loops in order to determine how many vehicles are waiting. Many traffic signals adjust amount of green time based on the amount of vehicles present. From time to time these detector loops experience problems and malfunction. The malfunction can result in two different problems. In one scenario the loops detect a vehicle that is not actually present and therefore the signal cycles to green when there is no one waiting. The opposite can also occur where a vehicle is waiting but is not sensed by the loops and therefore the signal does not realize someone is waiting and does not cycle to green.



If you feel a traffic signal is not functioning properly, please contact the City Traffic section.

For any traffic related concerns please call Steve Kersevan at (925) 671-5203 or e-mail at skersevan@ci.pleasant-hill.ca.us.

CITY CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

For additional information about the following construction projects please visit http://www.pleasanthill.ca.gov/PublicWorks/city_project.cfm on the City website or contact the Engineering Division at (925) 671-5264.

PLANNED

Taylor Boulevard Pavement Overlay Project

The project consists of pavement overlay on Taylor Boulevard between Morello Avenue and Grayson Road. Taylor Boulevard is part of the Metropolitan Transportation System (MTS) of roadways. MTS roadways in Pleasant Hill are Contra Costa Boulevard, Geary Road, Gregory Lane, Monument Boulevard, Pleasant Hill Road, and Taylor Boulevard. MTS roadways are eligible for Federal Surface Transportation Program (STP) grant funding. The City was awarded a $600,000 grant for this project. The City is responsible for all project costs above the grant amount. The City is currently finalizing the engineering plans for the project. Construction is expected to occur this summer.

ADA Improvement Project

The City's annual project focuses on improving public accessibility for individuals with disabilities. The 2006 project will construct multiple new pedestrian curb ramps at intersections throughout the City where ramps are missing.

COMPLETED

Patterson Boulevard "Lighted" Pedestrian Crosswalk

The solar powered in pavement lighted crosswalk at the Hawthorne Drive intersection has been installed. New curb ramps and sidewalk along the west side of Patterson Boulevard have been constructed to complement the crosswalk improvements.

PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY AT A GLANCE

COMPLETED

The Crossroads Shopping Center

All of the building structures and site improvements are complete. All that remains are tenant improvements as spaces become occupied. The Kohl's department store's new neighbors include: Golden Nail salon; LA Weight Loss center; Panda Express restaurant; Starbucks café; Yakety Yak Wireless store; and Yokoso Japanese restaurant. A planned Country Waffle restaurant and others will become future shopping center tenants.

UTILITY CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

Important Utility Emergency Phone Numbers

Central Contra Costa Sanitary District (sewer emergencies)	(925) 933-0955
Comcast (TV cable customer service and repair emergencies)	(800) 945-2288
Contra Costa Water District (water emergencies)	(925) 688-8095 (weekdays) or 688-8374 (all other times)
East Bay Municipal Utility District (water emergencies)	(866) 403-2683
Pacific Gas & Electric Company (gas and electric emergency)	(800) 743-5000
SBC (phone customer service)	(800) 310-2355
Diablo Vista Water District (private residence)	(925) 938-9510

PLANNED

Contra Costa Water District (CCWD)

Gregory Gardens III Main Water Pipe Replacement

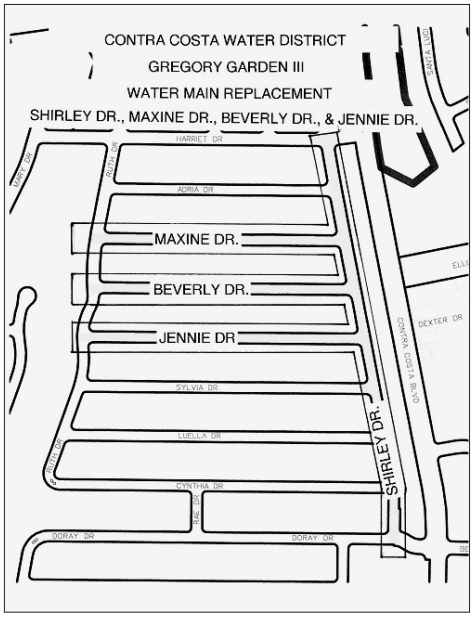
The CCWD will be replacing 5,580 linear feet (1.1 miles) of 6- and 12-inch water pipe line on Shirley Drive, Maxine Drive, Beverly Drive, and Jennie Drive. The project is necessary to upgrade the older deteriorating pipes on these streets. This work also includes replacing the service laterals from the main pipe to the house water meters. The work is planned to start May 2006.

UNDERWAY

Contra Costa Water District (CCWD)

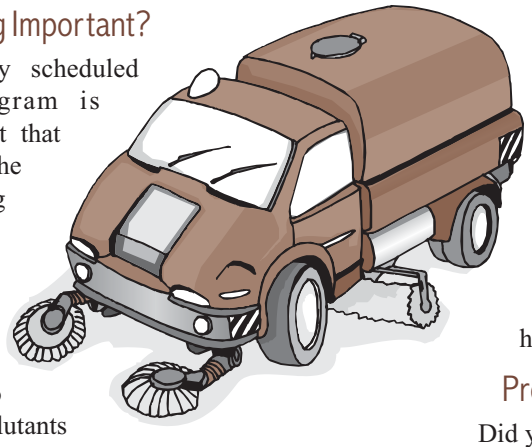
CCWD Hook Avenue Water Pipeline

The CCWD has begun replacing 1,670 feet (0.3 miles) of 6- and 8-inch water pipe from Oak Park Boulevard to Pleasant Valley Drive. This work includes replacing the service laterals from the main pipe to the house water meters. CCWD is upgrading their utilities in preparation for a future Hook Avenue street project. Project completion anticipated for May 2006.



Contra Costa Water District Gregory Gardens III Main Replacement project site map

Why is Street Sweeping Important?



Maintaining a regularly scheduled street sweeping program is important given the fact that clean streets minimize the amount of debris entering the storm drain system, which empties into our creeks. These local creeks flow into major waterways such as the San Francisco Bay and any level of pollutants impact the water quality.

While an effective street sweeping program can greatly reduce water pollution, it is only one counteractive measure to address water quality. You also have the capacity to serve as protectors of our waterways by being aware of how your actions can contribute to or help solve the pollution problem. Simple, everyday activities, such as over watering your lawn can wash pollutants (pesticides, fertilizers, leaves, and clippings) from yards and driveways into the street and down the storm drain.

You can help us do a better job on the day streets in your neighborhood are scheduled to be swept. To ensure that all of the City's 374 curb miles are swept monthly, vehicles should be parked off the street on your scheduled sweeping day. In addition, any trash containers and basketball backboards should be out of the street to make sure there is a continuous sweep. Remember, a clean sweep means your street has a debris-free appearance and there's less chance of pollutants going into the storm drain. It is not possible to sweep those streets that do not have a curb and gutter because the sweeper's rotating broom requires a raised edge to capture dirt and other contaminants. If there is a considerable amount of debris on streets without a curb and gutter, the material will have to be removed by hand sweeping with a broom.

WHEN WILL YOUR STREET BE SWEPT?

To find out when a particular street will be swept, you can visit **http://www.pleasanthill.ca.gov/PublicWorks/street_sweeping.cfm**, the City's website. In the box provided, type in the name of any street, click on "Submit" and the street name with sweeping schedule will appear. All public streets (residential, collector and arterial) are swept in the City with residential streets swept monthly and collectors/arterials swept weekly. Private streets are not on the City's sweeping schedule.

A new feature recently added to the City's Street Sweeping page is a GIS map with the nine sweeping routes and a legend noting each route in a different color. Just click on the "Street Sweeper" icon and the Sweeping Route Map will appear. Any questions regarding street sweeping can be answered by Jackie Winterbauer (925-671-4646) who works in the City's Maintenance Division. Thank you for doing your part to keep the City of Pleasant Hill looking its best!

Reporting Streetlight Problems

The City receives numerous phone calls regarding streetlight outages. The majority of the streetlights within the City are owned and maintained by Pacific Gas & Electric Company (PG&E). Please report streetlight outages to City's Maintenance Division at (925) 671-4646. Provide the street address as well as streetlight pole number. Residents may also report streetlight outages directly to PG&E by calling (800) 743-5000 or by visiting http://www.pge.com/field_work_projects/report_lights/.

Properly Disposing of Yard Waste—do your part!

Did you know that you have an important role in keeping our storm drains clean and our waterways pollution free? Every time that leaves and yard clippings are raked from your yard into the street or into a storm drain inlet, the drainage pipes can become clogged and irreparable harm can be done to our waterways. To prevent this from happening, the City has a green waste-recycling program as part of your garbage collection service.

Disposing of yard waste such as grass clippings and leaves into storm drains can clog the system and result in flooding during rainy weather. It takes a surprisingly few number of leaves to cover the opening of a storm drain grate and stop most of the water from going into the inlet. In addition, leaves and yard clippings become very heavy when exposed to moisture and will stick together to form a mass similar to a pile of wet towels. When this occurs, the leaves and yard clippings accumulate in the bottom of the drain pipe, blocking the rain water from going through the pipe and into the creeks and channels.

Even though leaves and yard clippings are organic waste and therefore biodegradable, when they end up in our waterways water quality is severely impacted. When organic and/or yard waste decays in water, the "breakdown" process removes oxygen from the water that is necessary for the health of all aquatic species from microorganisms to fish. During the decomposition process, valuable oxygen is removed from the water. When this occurs, the aquatic life is deprived of needed oxygen and the result is that they suffocate.

Please do your part and don't rake leaves and yard clippings into the street that end up clogging storm drains and polluting our waterways. Every single-family residence is provided with green waste recycling service for leaves and yard clippings. Green waste is collected at curbside on the same day of your regular garbage collection and taken to a composting facility.

Remember water is life; never put yard waste in storm drains. With your help, everyday activities such as yard work can be done without detrimental effects to our storm drainage system, our local creeks and the San Francisco Bay.

Click on the Allied Waste Home Page at http://alliedwasteservicesofcontracostacounty.com and the Contra Costa County Clean Water Program home page at http://www.cccleanwater.org to find out what you can do to help keep our storm drains clear of harmful pollutants and our waterways clean of pollutants.

CITY DRAINAGE ISSUES

Storm Rainfall Intensity

How big was the December 31, 2005 storm? See page 5 of the March/April OUTLOOK for a comprehensive report from the Contra Costa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District.

City of Pleasant Hill Storm Survey

The City distributed approximately 700 surveys asking residents how they were affected by the December 31, 2005 storm. The survey results will be used to help the City identify short-term storm drain related projects as well as long-term flood protection projects. To date 204 surveys have been completed and returned. Returned surveys tally 20 residents indicating they experienced water within their home, while 59 residents indicated either their backyards or street experienced some flooding. City infrastructure suffered some minor storm damage. Most significant storm damage was related to mud slides. City crews, along with some private contractors, were called upon to provide the clean up of many streets, storm drains, and drainage inlets.

Any resident who would like to fill out a survey can go to the City of Pleasant Hill website (www.ci.pleasant-hill.ca.us) or contact Steve Kersevan at (925) 671-5203 for a copy.

Mazie Drive street flooding after the 12/31/2005 rain storm.

For more information on flooding and the services available in Pleasant Hill, read page 6-7 of the current (Mar/Apr) OUTLOOK.

PAVEMENT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Cities, in order to receive funding under state transportation improvement programs, must maintain a Pavement Management Program (PMP). The City's PMP is a computer-assisted management tool to inventory street pavement, assess current pavement conditions, record historical maintenance, forecast budget needs in the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) and view the impacts of funding on City-wide pavement conditions over time. The City Council and City staff uses the PMP recommendations along available funds and other factors to develop our annual Street Resurfacing budget.

City streets are divided into manageable sections and their pavement conditions are entered into the PMP computer program every two years. The City has approximately 110 centerline miles of paved surfaces, divided into 768 pavement management segments. PMP updates are also sent to the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) which uses the information to inventory the road conditions of the Bay Area and help guide them on the allocation of their grant monies for roadway repair. The City is currently conducting a pavement assessment survey in order to determine the City's average Pavement Condition Index (PCI). Two years ago the average PCI was 64 on a 100-point scale, with 100 being a new street. A rating of 64 is considered on the low range of the MTC defined "Good" condition.

The condition of a roadway deteriorates with usage and weathering. Protecting a roadway from weathering is a matter of keeping the top layer of pavement intact though cost effective preventative maintenance treatments such as crack sealing, slurry seals and rubberized chip seals. Cities in cash-short financial situation might resort to a "worst first" approach to repairing roadways. Under these methods, available funds are poured into costly reconstruction of a few roadways that are already badly deteriorated, while the healthy roadways in need of relatively inexpensive preventive maintenance treatments are ignored.

The PMP software provides recommendations of where and what types of preventative maintenance pavement, overlay, or street reconstruction should be performed to maximize the overall PCI rating for a given annual funding level. When funding levels for pavement work are not high enough to schedule all the desired street repairs, the software recommends funding preventative maintenance treatments and dropping costly rehabilitation of poor condition streets. Funding less expensive preventative maintenance results in the good streets remaining good while the bad streets get worst—not a palpable pavement repair strategy if you live or drive on a street in poor condition.

Other complex issues that the city must take into consideration and that the PMS software does not account for in its analysis are:

- The cost benefits of grouping pavement work into localized areas vs. higher cost to stage pavement work spread across the City
- Benefits of scheduling particular streets for work to occur earlier to utilize available grants monies that have "use it" or "lose it" stipulations
- The major utility restoration projects that created new trenches along our streets. In these utility projects the City works with the utility companies to rehabilitate the street at the end of project
- The business development and economic value to the City in maintaining the major roadways in an acceptable condition.